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INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE DESPATCHES.

Mr. Doyle's Speech.

[The following Speech was delivered by Mr. L. O'C. Doyle, in the House of Assembly, on the 14th Feb. 1845:]

Mr. Doyle said, Mr. Chairman—As no “Arbiter Elegantiarum”—as one not fashioned to deliver *D’Orsay* dissertations upon drawing rooms—or adjust the standard by which manners are to be softened into ease, or polished into elegance—I, sir, like the learned gentleman from Hants, have not had the recent opportunity of glassing my form in the classic waters of the Avon—nor of wandering inylvia Academi, thro’ the sequestered shades of Windsor, to breathe in the inspiration of its scenery;—from one confined within the artificial and unanimating dullness of the city, this Committee must not expect any of those, ad nauseum, and elaborate displays of rhetoric which have for this last hour tingled in their ears; nor can I promise them the raciness or the richness of those tirades—those volumes of sounding invective from which the echoes of this chamber have scarcely yet recovered. No—the less ambitious task of dealing with this dull debate as its uninviting details offer themselves, will be my office—my disposition and my duty; and following in the footsteps of my hon. and learned friend (the late Solicitor General) I shall generally in their order address myself to the matters, peremptorily, under discussion, as the exigencies of my argument, and my hopes of usefulness to the cause shall prompt and suggest—not omitting to bestow such transitory regards upon the learned gentleman who has preceded me as the nature of his comments—as the point and piquancy of their aim on this side of the House, may claim and challenge.

My hon. and learned friend, Mr. Uniacke, has rested with great effect and eloquence, (in his rapid review of our transition from the torpor of the old regime, to the animation of our present state) on the value of those blessings which if unobstructed in their enjoyment, are yet in store for these Colonies; he has told us in periods impressive and emphatic, of the struggles that are past, when, not then as now he stood in the opposite ranks—a change of position which has attracted the facetious notice of the hon. member from Pictou, who has been liberal in borrowing his comparisons from the quarrels of his own race, with whom, probably, he will yet find it were well if he had left them.

For me no mortuary pyre has been accumulated out of rotten old papers, as for my colleague—I, sir, have not been stilled to death by secret wounds, as has been the case with my hon. and learned friend from Cape Breton—the tirade, no dire denunciations have been directed against me, as against the hon. and learned Speaker, and against the hon. member for the County of Halifax (Mr Howe) The task, an easy one, of self defence, I leave to those hon. members, and in doing so, I can well apply the classic relation of the learned gentleman from Windsor who has preceded me—

“Non ta’i aurello, non defensoribus istis.”

To the unaided hands of those old friends and associates,

I commit the hon. and learned gentleman, and he, I shrewdly suspect, will have no reason to exult in the manner of the just retribution they may demand—that hon. and learned gentleman (Mr Wilkins) has divided his address into two sections—passion and pathos; in the passages of his passion he selected my colleague as his object—in his peroration of pathos, he has delivered some sharp though gracefully aimed thrusts at the learned Speaker. I have already said I must leave him to their mercies—tender tho’ they may not be—expressing my regret, sincere and unfeigned, at the personal complexion, imparted to this debate, and shall pass to the more grave subject of our notice, as offered to us, and disclosed in the papers on the Table. Those papers, extraordinary as they are in a few of their details—inaccurate, as I believe, in some, and at variance with the intentions of this House in many—we must meet them as we have them, and in so doing I shall have to apologise for the trespass it may be necessary to commit on your patience.

Now, Mr Chairman to the matter of the Despatch in my hand, after a few words upon the manner in which the alleged confidence of this House has been treated by the advisers of His Excellency. That Resolution expresses a confidence in the present half of a Council—yet the Government, without a word to authorize the attempt, recommended a Council and a half—an extension of our Colonial Cabinet to 12. Why, sir, in the Metropolis of the mighty Empire, of which we are a mere dependency, no greater number than 15 were ever in the Cabinet of the Sovereign; and a high authority, the Marquis Wellesley, one in Britain the highest in such matters, when consulted in 1811 upon that head, has pronounced any greater number than 11 to be inconvenient. Now, sir, we have the old number of 6, (all but one resident in Halifax)—and tho’ I cannot object to the number itself any more than to that of 9, unless the latter being the number of the Muses, it is more likely to be productive of harmony; while 6 is not associated with any historic reminiscence, sacred or profane—it is neither the number of the Graces, nor of the Muses, and only half that of the Apostles. Why, Mr Chairman, did they not take to their Body the Hon. Collector of Excise? And then should we not have in effect the Seven Sages of old? The number would find a support in our classic memories at least. But let us for an instant pass from this topic, and see what we have to meet in the diplomacy of last winter, touching the overtures to the Ex Councillors.

Really sir, it would seem as if the members of the present Ministry had sworn their political lives against their former fellows in office, and required that they should be bound over to keep the peace, before the coalition should recommence—what a presage of harmony is derived from this state of bodily fear in which these stipulations declare the members of the Colonial Cabinet to be, and what a laugh-

ing stock to our sister Colonies must we present. Further we find in these pronounced conditions, precedent to their qualification for office, that the ex-Councillors must renounce the heretical doctrine that the Lieutenant Governor can do no wrong; whatever scruples they have hitherto entertained on this matter, I hear it whispered that the present Despatch has removed much incredulosity as to the matter of *vice-regal impeccability*; but really, Mr. Chairman, these stipulations are so extraordinary and singular—so un-British, that seriousness scarcely suits the examination of their contents or terms. Lady Monagu has told us in one of her Letters, that a contemplated coalition in her time had reminded her of the position in which a friend had found himself in removing his menagerie from the country to the capital: he discovered on its arrival that the hostile and repugnant spirit of the animals, so far from being mitigated by their society, had resulted in mischief and mutilation; the *Hyena* had attempted to eat off the haunches of the Zebra, which, in self defence, had broken the jaws of the *hyena*. Such was the result of the Coalition. Wisely and well, then, it must be admitted have these stipulations sought to pare the *talons* of the hon. and learned members, and to extract the *teeth* of my hon. colleague, to preserve the peace of the *Colonial Cage*—but surely the ex Councillors ought to have had some assurances that the present inmates had been similarly disarmed of their *ferocity*, or the very peril of their new and defenceless position, is an argument against acceptance.

But again, the hon. and learned Solicitor General, like a second Athanasius, has come down to propound his political creed, and what is it? That all numerical relations are to be discredited,—that four Liberals are not less than six Conservatives, nor six Conservatives more than four Liberals—that the *less* is equal to the *greater*, and the *greater* not more than the *less*—and he who believes not this must be politically damned. Away, sir, with the political Puseyism of the Government—it would place the *lamps* upon the *altar*, but is afraid to light them,—the practical Protestantism of the Conservative is more consistent. But I must pass from these stipulations, and seek another stage, by arriving at the matter disclosed in this Despatch. I find in the Declaration, that the party hitherto in Opposition, as Lord Stanley is informed, were willing to form a Council from which Mr Howe would have been excluded; and yet, with this explicit assertion before us, we are assured by the learned Attorney General, that no false impression was conveyed to the mind of the Colonial Secretary. We, Mr. Chairman, whether we interpret the isolated passage by its spirit or its letter, or whether we read it with the context as long as language is retained for its accepted uses—can find no other construction applicable than that which implies our readiness to abandon the hon. member for the County of Halifax. But sir, we have another aid to the solution of its sense, in the commentary of the Attorney General, as furnished by his address to this House. He has said emphatically that he saw signs at the time—he inferred from “the tone of things around” that the omission was unpalatable. Now, sir, if such was his impression—if such was his belief—it is not probable he suppressed it from his Excellency,—and if he did not, then is our interpretation of the fallacy produced by the Despatch, not only justified by its terms, but also by the avowal of the Attorney General’s impressions. No Sir, this body of the Opposition repudiate the imputation, and are ready, without shrinking, to be tried by their acts.

Again, Sir, it has been told Lord Stanley that we are without a Leader—that the Government have gained strength, while indications of weakness are visible in our ranks. Is such the case? Are these veritable facts? Do we exhibit at the present moment a diminished front? Are we less solid—less compact in our array than during the last Sessions? Show to me the symptoms of desertion. No, Mr Chairman, the mutterings of mutiny were loud in the camp of the Government during the last year, and

the present, scarcely a day passes but manifestations of this spirit are beheld. Stir the Parish bill from its repose, the Scottish spirit of the Hon and learned gentleman from Windsor at once takes alarm, and *cloyne* against *crazier* is the cry of the Covenant; move in the Glebe and School Lands, and unite, if you can, the Members for Lunenburg and Pictou—I would as soon expect to meet Balfour of Burleigh arm in arm with Dundee. Nay, Sir, even with the new and additional General of the law at your head (Mr Dodd); your learned supporter from Kings, on the subject of Education, taunted your tactics and your skill, and insinuated that you were afraid even to teach the young idea how to shoot.—Do we forget the Civil List Bill?—why, I tell the Government that their ranks were then as troublesome and mutinous as a corps of Seapoys upon a reduction of batta. Aye, Sir, it is this disposition in their retainers not only suspected but known, that renders the Cabinet so cautious in their measures, or rather it is from an inability to command the entire confidence of their party, that they have given us *no measures*; and yet sir, they grow indignant when charged with non-productiveness. Why, Mr Chairman, I know not how I can better illustrate their condition, than by comparing them to the case of an invalid, who, tho’ otherwise advised, would swallow *nothing*, and even that *nothing* would not stay on his stomach. And now, Mr Chairman, I feel myself approaching a more grave and serious portion of this important Debate. That stage of it in which I find the hon Member for the County of Halifax virtually proscribed by his Excellency—a proscription announced, loudly dwelt upon, and even made more severe by the remarks addressed to the Committee by the learned gentleman from Hants. He, Sir, with a gratuitous augmentation of the penalty, has told us that even his present Excellency will perseveringly transmit his dislike and hostility to future Lieutenant Governors—and that, thro’ all time forth to come, the anathema is to endure. Sir, I tell the hon. and learned member for Hants, that his argument is sadly deficient in principle—is without precedent from Constitutional history—is repugnant to the whole body of authorities—and, stands repudiated by the evidences which almost every page of the British annals furnishes from the revolution to the present time.

Sir, the personal prepossessions of the Monarch are not consulted by the principles of our Constitution. While the confidence of the people is the *cement* of the Cabinet, neither the affections nor the antipathies of the Prince can dissolve or disturb it. In the reign of the Tudors and the Stuarts, the personal attachment of the Sovereign presented the passports to power; and as this attachment was often secured by sycophancy and adulation, and other acts injurious to the interests of the people, the transition from power to a prison—from the support of the Sovereign to the suffering on the scaffold, was not a rare or improbable event in these by gone times. The revolution changed this inauspicious order of things, and we shall listen to the lessons imparted by its history.

But as to the proscription of Mr. Howe, and that pronounced by the Queen’s Representative, his self vindication of yesterday is yet exultantly vibrating in my ears. To pursue the same is neither my disposition nor my duty—he will not permit any one to assume a task which personally imports himself; it is with British precedent, British principles, and British practice, my argument and my evidence have to deal—and I shall briefly do so—first promising that without the commentaries of the learned Attorney General, the applicability of some of the passages would have been to me unintelligible—matters of taste and speculation, ethics this Assembly have no time to discuss; and whether the Muse of the Hon. Member has been delicate in all its actions, or is amenable to other and more fastidious tribunals, it is not our office to determine. We have announced to us, as a purpose of the Government, that my friend and colleague, a Novascotian and a British sub-

ject, shall be proscribed in his country, because he has Queen’s Representative grounds of this sentiment with the calmness and of the subject.

Let me ask, Mr. history—since the first do we find it ever reneget, that personal disdions of the Sovereign offices of the State.

I do not, as I have Tudors, or the Stuart Restoration, during Monarch as our thro the epoch of the Rev those meliorating cha this very topic)—aging, yet it has e principle—of the liz vestiges through ea sent. Even, sir, at t Sir William Temp somewhat appropri and the object of s Government of Ch were not develop form to the Constitu

After the Revolut the Minister of Qu Swift writes, and fleet and displeasur vices because they accession of the offensive to the So lar confidence into reign of second C King, against the tered the Sovereign which London wa and the mighty p narch who would ter who achieved colleague of this s of the Admiralty Pitt, he absolut tunately is so net ly impertinent t palace, in his offi of Admiral Byng conduct at Minor had been at Ouc if the one desee been hanged”—y place.

Fox, it is kno and in the reign their interposed- very steps of the in one of his ele “stand forth the nobled Mr Brou ellor of the St nounced. Wh license of a Ba Fourth, was cr in our own tim find indulgenc not been the ex gratitude to th him to the mo result.

But, sir, ar which may ill

most unaffected indifference; neither do I remember ever to have endangered his good opinion so much as by appearing uneasy when the dealers in that kind of writing first began to pour out their *seurrilities* against him, which he thought was a weakness altogether inexcusable in a man of virtue and liberal education."

There is a model for high-souled British Statesmen to form upon, and well worthy of our perusal. I may have dwelt too long; but it is the idea of proscription which alarms me, and I care not who the victim may be, Liberal or Conservative, I shall struggle against and repudiate the principle. That her Majesty's Government regard with no favourable spirit the exercise of harsh and undue severities, the Crown Officers opposite may learn from the removal of the Attorney and Solicitor General of Upper Canada in the case of the notorious McKenzie, one certainly deserving of little consideration by the Minister. Yet, because they gave their suffrages for his expulsion from the Legislature, the Secretary immediately displaced them, least their concurrence in that measure of excessive severity should bring suspicion upon the mild and merciful spirit of Majesty. Thus, even some years before the dawn of these changes, the Despatch of Lord Goderich evinced his distaste for proscription. But, Sir, the Attorney General, Mr Boulton, though he then suffered, seems to have been revived into a nobler being by the very incense which ascended from the scene of the sacrifice, and now stands as a tutelar spirit around a more sacred altar than the one designed for his immolation.

The Hon and learned Member for Hants, in his discursive range, adverted to a case of personal indignity to Her Majesty, which was promptly followed by its meet retribution. Yes, sir, the spirit of England I feel would kindle at anything even savoring of an affront to the youthful and endeared Queen of the Realm. The figurative language of the eloquent Burke toward Marie Antoinette, is too feeble with all its richness, to depict emotions which would beat

within the bosoms of the Nation in revenge of 'even a look that would threaten her with insult.' But, sir, we must examine the authority of my learned friend, as presented by the facts. It is the case of one not unknown to, and well remembered in this community—the gallant Dundas—who, having in the excess of festive forgetfulness, uttered expressions grossly reflective upon Her Majesty, (which transpired through some not very creditable agency), was removed from the command of his corps. So far, the precedent is in favor of Mr. Wilkins's cry for proscription:—but what has followed? Her Majesty, in whose bosom no resentment is permitted to rest—who breathes and has her being in an atmosphere untainted by the less noble passions of our nature—has not only recalled the author of the indignity to his duty, but has selected a distinguished corps of the elite of the army, for his command; and thus while replacing in the service a name memorable in military annals for conspicuous usefulness to its order and discipline, she has re-opened a career of probable glory to an indiscreet but gallant officer. I thank my honorable and learned friend for the reminiscence. And now, Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, the learned Member for Hants has compared the Queen's Representative to the noble denizen of the English grove, clothed in all the amplitude of its foliage, solid with the attributes of its strength, and wide spread in all the furniture of its beauty—the ornament and admiration of the green world around. I, sir, must be less ambitious in the similitude I select: but the forests of my own country yields a solid stem—which, like my Hon. Colleague, though struggling against the inclemency of climate, dilates in its growth, and ascends in its height, assuming fresh vigor as it vegetates; some hours of ungenial temperature may expel the sour saps as a blemish upon the bark—yet the tree, unbent and uninjured, will endure to supply the stately spar which is to bear aloft our standard amidst the battle and the breeze.

